



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

Lee Holloway
Chairman of the Board

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CHAIRMAN HOLLOWAY STATEMENT ON COUNTY LAYOFFS

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Board Chairman Lee Holloway released the following statement in response to the County Executive's decision to lay off 76 security and parks workers:

"Although the Chair of the Finance & Audit Committee and I have been meeting with the County Executive regularly, it needs to be made clear that this is not the County Board's decision. This was strictly the action of County Executive Scott Walker. I disagree with this decision and think he could have been more creative in developing corrective action plans.

"It's clear that the County Executive's zero budget philosophy is catching up with him. His inability to keep up with the cost of inflation is contributing to a structural deficit and hurting the County's ability to provide basic services such as parks maintenance and courthouse security. Had he accounted for inflationary pressures in his budgets, this decision may not have been necessary.

"Let's not forget that, during the 2010 County Budget process, the County Board specifically rejected privatizing Courthouse security. It was not included in the 2010 Adopted Budget. Therefore, I have requested a written opinion from Corporation Counsel on whether the County Executive has the ability to enter into this large contract without bringing it before the County Board. I am also requesting that the Department of Audit analyze the cost effectiveness of this contract and provide a written report on the actual savings, if any, associated with privatizing these services."

"Privatizing services does not make the obligations go away. We still have to pay the costs of the contract, provide unemployment benefits for laid off workers, and retain responsibility for their legacy health care and pension benefits."

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